steps as may be practicable for mainting the supply of water to the city close to 409 MGD.

Provision of Sinks in Type III Quarters in DIZ Area

3341. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a proposal under Government's consideration to provide sinks in the kitchens of Type III quarters in Sector 'D', D.I.Z. area;

(b) if so, whether these sinks have since been provided; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for delay and by when these are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Due to reasons of economy on account of drought, works of such nature as could be postponed have not been sanctioned by the Government during the current financial year. It is difficult to indicare the precise time which the facility would be provided. This proposal alongwith similar proposals in respect of other colonies, will be considered by Government in the next financial year on merits, depending upon availability of funds.

Hardship of Cotton Growers of Andhra Pradesh

3342. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the cotton growers particularly in Prakasham and Guntur Districts of Andhra Pradesh, are experiencing severe hardships due to the the failure of crops on account of drought and adulterated insecticide supply, and even leading to suicides by some of such farmers;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to extend the Crop Insurance Scheme in terms of 'land under crop' rather than credit supply to them by the banks and include some of these crops under the Scheme; and

(c) whether Government propose to gave additional financial sanctions to the State Government to tide under the severe crisis and to fulfil some of the scheme announced by State Government of Andhra Pradesh to redress the harships of the cotton growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The Government of India is aware that the cotton growers of Andhra Pradesh particularly of districts of Prakasham and Guntur are experiencing hardships due to failure of their crop. The Government of Andhra Pradesh have reported that some cotton farmers have committed suicide. There have been nor reports of wide-spead supply of inferior quality and adulterated pesticides in the country. However, there have been such reports in some areas of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) There is no proposal to extend crop insurance coverage to cotton and to cover non-loanee farmers.

(c) No such proposal is under the consideration of Government of India.

Suicide by Farmers due to Loss of cotton Crop in Andhra Pradesh

3343. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of cotton growers of Guntur and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh had committed suicide recently due to crop failure and heavy indebtedness;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Centre has asked for a report from the State in this regard;

(c) whether the Centre have received the said report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what action has been taken by the Centre thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Information was called for.

(c) Yes, Sir. Information has been received.

(d) The State Government has reported that in Prakasam district cotton growers suffered the compounding effect of drought, cyclone and heliothis. The loss of the cotton growers in this district alone is estimated at about Rs. 600 crores. The main points covered under the report briefly consist of—(1) indebtedness, (2) gold loans, (3) pest menace and pesticides, (4) crop insurance, (5) supplementary sources of income, (6) switching over to alternative crops, (7) creation of irrigation facilities, (8) employment generation, and (9) assistance to families of suicide victims.

In order to avoid recurrence of such tragic incidents in future, a number of steps have been taken by the Government of India. They include—evolving cotton varieties which are tolerant to pests through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), introduction of crop diversification programmes, intensification of pest surveillance systems, introduction of Integrated Pest Management, proper education of farmers in better use of pesticides and intensification of quality control measures with regard to pesticides.

Inclusion of Vimukat Jatis in the List of Scheduled Castes

3344. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the desirability of including the 'Vimukat Jatis' in the list of Scheduled Castes;

(b) if so, what is the present position in the matter; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) to (c) Persons belonging to Vimukat Jatis have already been included in the list of Scheduled Castes in the States where they fulfil the criterion *i.e.* extreme social, educational and economic backwardness arising out of the traditional practice of untouchability.

The proposal to include them in the list of Scheduled Castes in the States where it has not been done is being considered along with similar other proposals in the context of the proposed comprehensive revision of the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Further, amendment in the existing lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes can be done only through an Act of Parliament in view of Articles 341(2) and 342(2) of the Constitution.

Issue of SC/ST Certificates

3345. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been cases in the recent past where Delhi Administration declined to take into account the certificates issued by other States to the parents of those Scheduled Castes|Scheduled Tribes applicants who applied for issue of such certificates in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to save the poor harijans from harassment in obtaining these certificates?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) and (b) No specific case has come to the notice of this Ministry. According to the existing instructions, the prescribed authority of a State Government|U.T. Administration may, subject to such enquiries as may be deemed necessary, issue the Scheduled